

Application No.: 09/990,327

Docket No.: 05525-00003-US

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Rejection of October 15, 2003. In that rejection, claims 1-8, the claims in the original patent, were allowed, claims 9-98 were rejected, and claims 99-110 were allowed.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, applicant herewith cancels rejected claims 9-98, rewrites each of claims 99-110 as independent claims, and adds 111-188 dependent either directly or indirectly on one of the allowed claims 99-110. Applicant submits that this application is clearly in condition for allowance.

The amendment has reduced the number of pending claims from 110 to 98 in order to advance the prosecution of the application. The dependent claims, 111-188 are similar to the dependent claims in the set of claims 9-98 and thus new subject matter is not introduced by this amendment. Inasmuch as each of the new claims, 111-188 is dependent on one of the allowed claims 99-110, each of those claims is also clearly allowable.

Applicant is also filing a divisional reissue application to continue the prosecution of the rejected claims 9-98. In view of all of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application is solicited.

Dated: 1/15/04

Respectfully submitted,

By: Stanley B. Green

Stanley B. Green

Registration No.: 24,351

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-3425

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant